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## U.S. Denies a Plot on Qaddafi

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (Reuters) — The White House has dismissed a report that the United States set out to kill Muammar el-Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, in air raids on Tripoli last spring.

"The bombs that fell on the Qaddafi family compound were targeted on military barracks 600 feet away," a White House spokesman, Dan Howard, said Sunday. "There was no plan to go after Qaddafi specifically."

In an article Sunday in The New York Times Magazine, Seymour M. Hersh reported that the primary aim of the April 1986 raid was not to strike at guerrilla and military installations, as the Reagan Administration asser-

ed, but to assassinate the Libyan leader.

Mr. Hersh—who said he had interviewed more than 70 United States officials and servicemen over three months, quoted one Air Force intelligence officer as having said: "There is no question they were looking for Qaddafi. It was briefed that way. They were going to kill him."

Some bombs did hit Colonel Qaddafi's headquarters inside a military barracks in Tripoli. The Libyan leader was unhurt, but his adopted 15-month-old daughter was killed, and scores of people were reported killed in the raids on the Libyan capital and on Benghazi.

Mr. Hersh said the plan was co-ordinated by the National Security Council.